



Welcome to Claude Moore Park's New Online Newsletter

Greetings, participants! Welcome to Claude Moore Park's new online newsletter. The park staff members are very excited to put this newsletter together as a way to stay in touch with our users and as a way to keep you informed of any program changes, special event updates, or important news.

We hope that you will enjoy receiving this newsletter via email; however, if you prefer to be removed from our mailing list, please contact us at claudemoore@loudoun.gov and note "Remove" in the subject line.

We hope to post this newsletter on our website as well, so if someone isn't automatically receiving the newsletter, they'll still have access to all the great information contained in the newsletter. Claude Moore Park's website address is www.loudoun.gov/prcs/parks/claude.htm.

We will produce this newsletter on a monthly basis; however, if you ever have questions about programs or events at the park, please contact us at 703-444-1275 or via email at claudemoore@loudoun.gov.

Currently, the park's winter hours are 7 AM-5 PM. The Vestal's Gap Visitor Center is open 9 AM-5 PM, daily. The Loudoun Heritage Farm Museum, located within the park, is open Tuesday-Sunday, 10 AM-5 PM. Please stop by for a visit during the beautiful winter months. Come out to do some birdwatching or hiking, or attend one of our great winter programs such as the Frogshackle Open House or Stargazing.



Sunset captured in Frogshackle Nature Center window on December 4, 2004.

Holiday In The Park was an overwhelming success!

This year's Holiday In The Park event was an overwhelming success for the park staff. The event was held on Saturday, December 4, and visitors numbered over 400; everyone enjoyed the hands-on activities of the event.

Participants made old-fashioned crafts, toured the historic Lanesville House which was dressed in period decorations, visited

Frogshackle Nature Center, took a hayride through the historic area, and roasted marshmallows by an open fire. Many kind people donated mittens, hats, or scarves to the Winter Warmth Tree. Those donations were delivered to the Holiday Coalition the weekend of the event and were passed on to needy families at the holidays.

A big thank you goes to the volunteers from the Friends of Claude Moore Park Advisory Board who helped to staff the event. For those who attended the event, thank you for your support and we hope you had a great time!

Inside this issue:

Holiday In The Park Overview	1
Volunteer Opportunities	2
Upcoming Programs	2
Claude Moore Park Contact Information	2



The Farm Museum's Allis-Chalmers decorated for hay rides.



CLAUDE MOORE PARK

21544 Old Vestals Gap Road, Sterling, VA 20164
703-444-1275

Park Staff

Pam Sheets, Park Manager, 703-421-0443
Merry Breed, Asst. Park Mgr., 703-421-6561
Dodie Lewis, Park Naturalist, 703-421-3125
Craig Swanson, Maint. Supr., 703-444-1275
Gail Morrow, Visitor Center Asst., 703-444-1275
Jeremy Edmondson, Maint. Tech., 703-444-1275
Brian Rose, Maint. Tech., 703-444-1275

We're on the web!
Try: www.loudoun.gov/prcs/parks/claude.htm

Volunteer Opportunities

Claude Moore Park is always looking for volunteers to help with various projects or events at the park. If you're looking for a volunteer opportunity, please contact us. There are two ways to get involved at the park:



One of the park's past volunteer projects: Cub Scouts from Meadowland Elementary Pack 951 work near Frogshackle Pond planting trees.

- 1) *Become a member of the Friends of Claude Moore Park. This advisory board assists park staff with programming, advises the staff on park management, and does volunteer work for various buildings or events at the park. The group meets quarterly and there is a nominal membership fee.*
- 2) *Become an individual volunteer and schedule your volunteer work at your convenience. If you have an interest in nature, gardening, trail maintenance, or other types of volunteer work, we can find a project for you.*

Either way, your volunteers hours are greatly appreciated and will help the park continue its mission of protecting this resource while providing recreational opportunities. Call 703-444-1275 for more volunteer information.

Upcoming special events or programs that you don't want to miss!

There's a lot going on this winter that we don't want you to miss! Check out some of these great special events or special programs and plan to attend!

You absolutely can't miss the ***Groundhog Day Extravaganza!*** This special program, for children ages 6-10, will be held on February 2: Groundhog Day! Children will be checking for their own shadows, talking about why the groundhog hibernates, and the story behind the groundhog's weather tales. Children will also get to make a special groundhog craft while sipping warm hot chocolate. This program runs 3:30-5 PM.

Also coming your way is an opportunity to hike the park after closing! That's right! Take a walk during our ***Moonlight Hike*** on Friday, January 21. The hike will run from 7:30-9 PM. Participants will use their senses

to "see" the park in a whole new light. You'll hear and identify nocturnal animals and warm-up after your hike with a cup of hot chocolate. This hike is designed for people 7 years and older.

And lastly, don't forget about our ***Star and Planet***

Watch on Friday, February 11. See constellations, planets, and the Milky Way! Join volunteer amateur astronomer, Bob Lewis, for beginning star watching and sky lore. Dress warmly and bring binoculars if you have them. The rain date is Saturday, February 12.

For more information on any of these programs or others that we may be running during January, please contact Claude Moore Park at 703-444-1275. We can provide fee information, registration instructions, or more details.



Don't miss the Star & Planet Watch on February 11!